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C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 001792

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [KPKO](#) [PGOV](#) [AU](#) [UN](#) [SU](#)
SUBJECT: SUDAN TO PROPOSE ALTERNATIVE PEACEKEEPING
OPERATION?

Classified By: P/E Chief E. Whitaker, Reason: Section 1.4 (b) & (d)

11. (C) On July 24, FBIS carried an account of an article placed in the internet version of The Post in Lusaka, which quoted Sudanese Ambassador to Zambia Salah Mohamed Ali as stating, "Our President made our position on changing mandate to UN very clear when he met Koffi Anan during the AU summit in Banjul. Within a month, we will draw up a road map and submit it to the UN which will consider our envisaged plan on resolving the conflict and give its position." According to a FBIS report of July 22, Khartoum Sudanile (independent, pro-government, internet site) stated on July 21 that the Government of Sudan is considering a plan to deploy Arab and Muslim troops in Darfur in order to block replacement of AMIS forces with international forces. This followed the July 19 statement by Foreign Minister Lam Akol, made at his return to Khartoum from the July 18 AMIS donor's conference in Brussels, wherein the Sudan News Agency states he announced that the Government would submit to the UN on August 1 a plan to "change the situation in Darfur." No elaboration, however, was offered.

12. (C) Senior Political Specialist (strictly protect) confided to Pol/Econ Chief that a neighbor, a retired military brigadier general, had been asked to participate in a National Congress Party (NCP) workshop of nine individuals designed to formulate a recommendation for President Bashir regarding the nature and composition of a peacekeeping force for Darfur. The source indicated that the Government realized that a peacekeeping operation to take the place of AMIS was inevitable, and planned to stop objecting, opting instead to recommend a course of action to the UN in early August. This plan apparently had the blessing of both NCP Deputy Secretary General and Assistant to the President Nafie Ali Nafie and Presidential advisor Ghazi Salahuddin. (Comment: both Nafie and Ghazi are inner circle NCP hardliners. End comment.) The source indicated that the Government is seeking a Chapter VI versus VII mandate, and that two stipulations would likely be made in a plan: that Sudan select the troop-contributing countries (assumed to be Muslim), and that Qatar "mediate" the process through its role in the UNSC, with Egypt and Nigeria mentioned as possible intermediaries.
STEINFELD